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Synopsis
of

"The Man From Hell's River."

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MAR 16 '22

Pierre de Barre (Irving Cummings), a Royal Northwest Mounted Police, is returning from a several months man hunt over snow covered Canada. As he pauses to feed his dog team, the leader of which is the faithful "Rintintin", he thinks of Maballa (Eva Novak), the sweetheart he left at the post and heaves a sigh of happy anticipation at seeing her again.

At the post, meanwhile, the fate of Maballa is taking a tragic turn. Sargeant McKenna (Frank Whitson) in charge of the post tries to comfort her, knowing her heart, but is forced to confess that Pierre will not return until he gets his man, and may perhaps never come back. Into the little community has come a stranger who is called Gaspard, the wolf (Wallace Beery). He is a vicious half-breed who wields a whip hand over Maballa's father, Lopente (Robert Klein) by threatening to expose his complicity in a murder. Gaspard looks with lustful eyes upon Maballa and compels Lopente to sell her to him in marriage. With a broken but obedient heart Maballa permits herself to be married by the good Father La Croix (Will Herford).

Pierre, returning, is broken hearted at the turn of events. He seeks an explanation from Maballa, who can give him none. Gaspard, the novelty of his pretty wife having worn off turns to drink and the company of women in the dance hall. Pierre sees this and the blood within him boils. He goes for consolation to Father La Croix, who, seeing the trend of his mind warns him that the commandment is "thou shalt not kill." He again meets Maballa

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and tries to get from her the secret of her marriage. Gaspard, sees them together and his jealous hatred is aroused. He goes home later and finds there a picture of Pierre that Maballa has long cherished. Over it he picks a quarrell with her and treats her brutally. When he has gone to the dance hall she decides she can endure her existence no longer and, gathering a few belongings, goes to post headquarters for protection. Lopente, seeing the girl's flight, hastens to tell Gaspard that Maballa has gone to Pierre. Gaspard goes to the post quarters and there confronts Pierre, demanding his wife who is hidden upstairs. He tries to ascend. Pierre intervenes. A terrific battle follows. Gaspard knocks Pierre senseless with a stunning blow, overpowers Maballa, steals a dog team and starts wildly to drive her out of the country. Recovering his senses Pierre's memory has been refreshed during the battle as to where he had seen Gaspard's face before. He is a man wanted for murder. Pierre quickly gets his dog team and starts on a mad race to overtake Gaspard and Maballa. When he does catch up with the fleeing half breed, a terrible fight follows, the men rolling in the snow and scrambling until they reach the very edge of a high precipice. In the meantime "Rintintin" Pierre's faithful dog leader is tugging at his leashes. He finally breaks these and starts madly to the rescue of his master. Gaspard, whose back is toward the precipice, has almost overcome Pierre, and is about to hurl him to his death when "Rintintin" with a mad leap goes over his master's head and striking Gaspard on the chest with his full weight sends the half-breed tumbling over the precipice to his death.

Returning to the post Pierre and Maballa are told by

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Father La Croix that Maballa, is not Lopente's Indian child, but a white girl, who was rescued as a baby from a snowstorm that had overcome her own parents, and was given as a consolation to the old Indian mother, whose own infant had died. She had been raised by Lopente and his squaw wife as their own child.

As Pierre and Maballa, at the good priest's feet, learn the story of her birth and realize that Gaspard is dead they clasp hands in happy anticipation of the future.

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